



MUSICALLY SPEAKING

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THOMASVILLE TIMES

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Animal control policies top council agenda

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Thomasville City Council will consider the approval of animal control officer policies and procedures permitting such officers to carry a gun while on duty at its regular meeting Monday.

The Department of Animal Control educates the public on animal issues and enforces local ordinances and state laws regulating the keeping of animals and treating them as hu-

manely as possible.

The department policy would allow non-sworn animal control officers to carry a gun in performance of their duties or for the purpose of animal control. Thomasville currently has only one animal control officer.

"This would allow the officers to be armed," said City Manager Kelly Craver. "In cases where the use of force is needed, this would expedite things instead of calling for another police officer."

All animal control officers

must qualify to carry a weapon, and officers won't be permitted to carry the gun on school property or while off-duty.

Currently, animal control officers use mace to subdue uncontrollable animals. Guns may only be used in a life-threatening situation or one with imminent danger of serious bodily injury to humans or animals.

"The goal is to make the position safer for the officers," Craver said, "And so we lessen the likelihood of an individual citizen being hurt by an ani-

mal."

The council also will consider the request for a taxi franchise by Catalina Iraheta Orellana, of Thomasville. Thomasville Police Department conducted a series of criminal background and driving checks and approved her to the council.

Orellana intends to start Taxis Katy, as her business will be called, with one taxi available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with plans to expand

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Local church to welcome minister, Elvis' brother

BY ERIN WILTGEN
Staff Writer

Rick Stanley has lived a turbulent life — a rags to riches storyline, by his own words.

Abused in foster care one day, the next he found himself half brother to Elvis Presley and welcomed into the life of rock and roll. But after his brother's death in 1977, Stanley found God and became a Christian. He has spent the last 40 years of his life traveling the country, preaching his story and the glory of the Lord.

And at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, Stanley will bring that message to Hillside Park Baptist Church.

"He is very inspirational," said Pastor Dr. Steve Chipps. "He's got a great testimony in and of itself from the kind of life he used to live to now being a great servant of the Lord."

Chipps contacted Stanley about traveling to Thomasville, remembering when he heard the minister at a different parish. Chipps says that Stanley's message not only conveys a moving story but his connection to Elvis naturally intrigues people.

"That's what everyone wants to know — what was Elvis like growing up," Chipps said. "One of the things I remember him saying was, 'Everyone said that my brother was the king, but let me introduce you to the real king, Jesus Christ.' He's coming to basically do a family crusade. We're do-

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TPS program to engage children in reading

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

Thomasville Primary School Principal Paula Gaylord had the microphone Monday night and made a plea for involvement to all the parents in attendance for the first PTO meeting of the new school year.

"We need you to help us."

With the school year in full swing, Gaylord told students and parents that state standards have been raised and that if TPS is to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) expectations also must go up. TPS came close to reaching AYP last year but came up a little short in a few subgroups. With an emphasized focus on reading and more parental involvement, Gaylord feels her school can not only meet state standards but exceed them.

"We came close but close is not enough," Gaylord said. "We've got a job ahead of us this year, but we can do this. Reading is a big part of our school improvement plan. We're starting in the preschool with reading comprehension and it moves all the way up the grades."

Expectations are not only going up at TPS, they are lofty.



Angela Uren and daughter Julia look over the books and materials provided Monday night as part of the Backpack Program at Thomasville Primary School.

Gaylord said she would like to see 71.6 percent of students reading at or above grade level and 88.6 percent of students proficient in math. One of the school's latest initiatives is its new backpack program. Parents were introduced to the initiative Monday night and told what was expected of them. Students will take home a backpack with five books every

weekend and parental involvement is key to making the program a success. Parents are expected to read with their children and help them remember what they've read to increase their understanding of the material.

"We've got to get everybody ready for the next grade so they'll be able to handle all the skills," said Gaylord. "We can't

wait until third grade to worry about if a student is on grade level."

First, second and third graders will start taking the backpacks home as soon as this weekend. TPS has more than 600 backpacks for its students, ensuring they will all have new reading material every week.

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EBONY FEST

The Martin Luther King Jr. Social Action Committee held the first Ebony Fest on Saturday at Myers Park. At left, Kiandra and Tristan Hardaway share a moment during the rain.

TIMES PHOTO/
LISA WALL

County fair has history of helping children

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

For the better part of a century, the Lexington Kiwanis Club has reached out to underprivileged children in an effort to improve their quality of life.

Every summer, the club holds its annual "Kiddie Kamp," where children interact with each other, play games, eat healthy and generally have a good time for a week. Children are selected by social services and their stories of broken homes and abuse keep Kiwanis Club members and volunteers eager to come back year

after year.

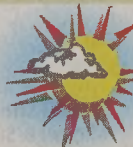
In order to pay for the "Kiddie Kamps," the Lexington Kiwanis Club sponsors one of the largest fairs in the state, and has ever since 1945. On Sept. 20, the Davidson County Agriculture Fair (DCAF) returns to the Davidson County Fairgrounds for its annual event where all the proceeds will go toward providing "Kiddie Kamps" for underprivileged children. An average of 180 children attend the three different summer camps each year.

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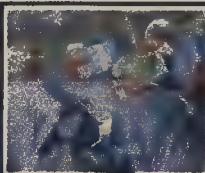
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Today's Weather



Mostly Sunny, 88/59



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